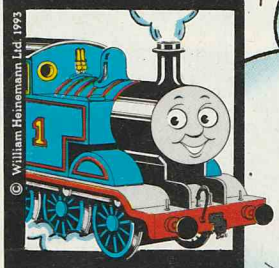
MARVEL®



© William Heinemann Ltd. 1993

23rd Apr. 1993
№144 60p

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

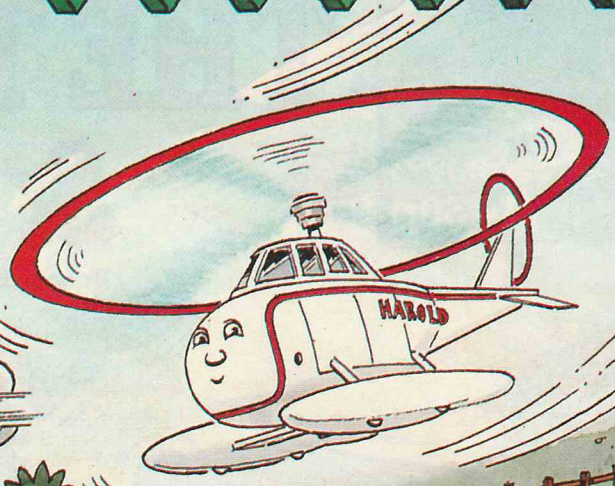
Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

## Welcome to the Flower Festival!

16>
9 770954 939046

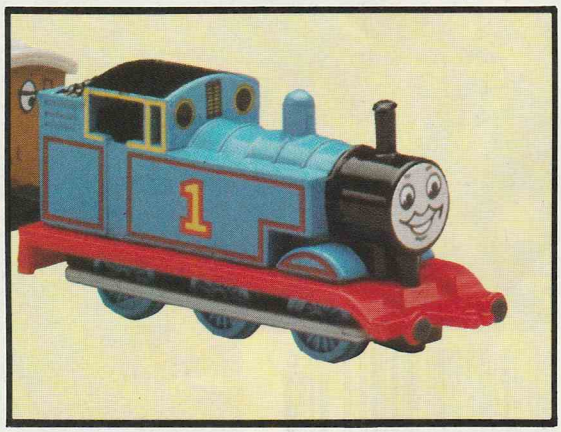
# NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! The Fat Controller likes to give Thomas very special jobs to do and Thomas enjoys helping out. In the story that begins on page 3, Thomas attends a very special event and he is also given a very bright surprise! Don't miss our second story either when Diesel proves that he is also a very useful engine! Peep! Peep!




## SPECIAL COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** of this issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for your chance to win a super selection of toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including the complete **Diecast** range of toys (1st prize), and **Thomas, Annie and Clarabel** (12 runners-up).



## HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

.....

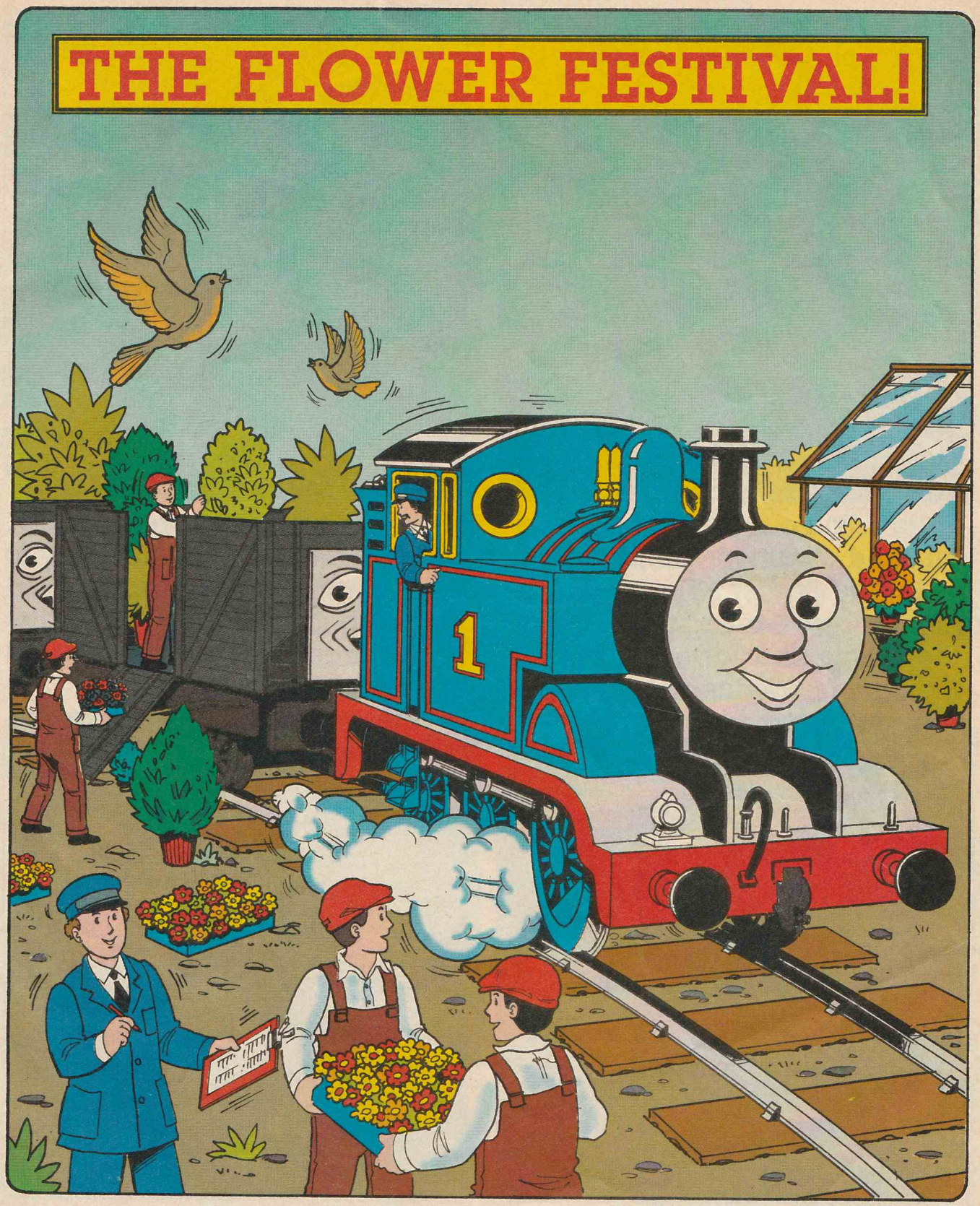
**Postcode** ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

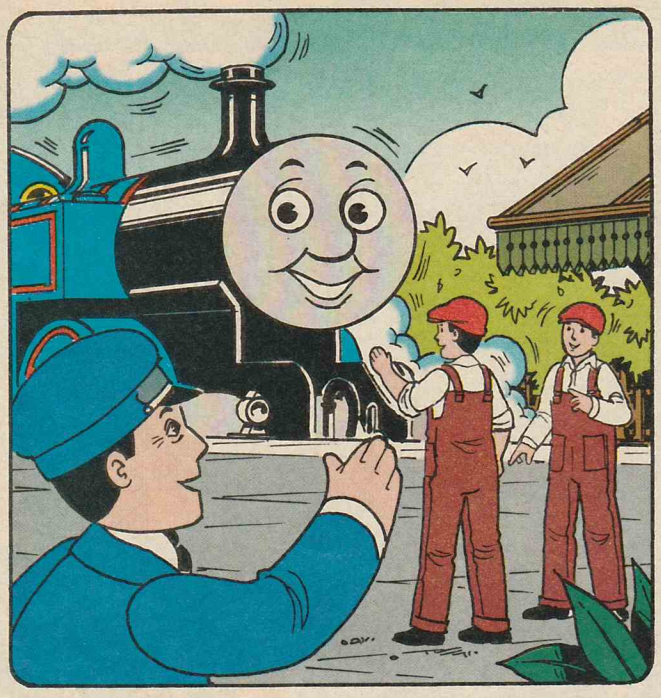
**THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE AND FRIENDS** is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Jim Galton, Chairman, Vincent Conran, Managing Director, Paul Neary, Editorial Director. Office of publication: 13-15 Arundel Street, London, WC2 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (Thomas), Limited exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Comag. ISSN 0954-9390

# THE FLOWER FESTIVAL!



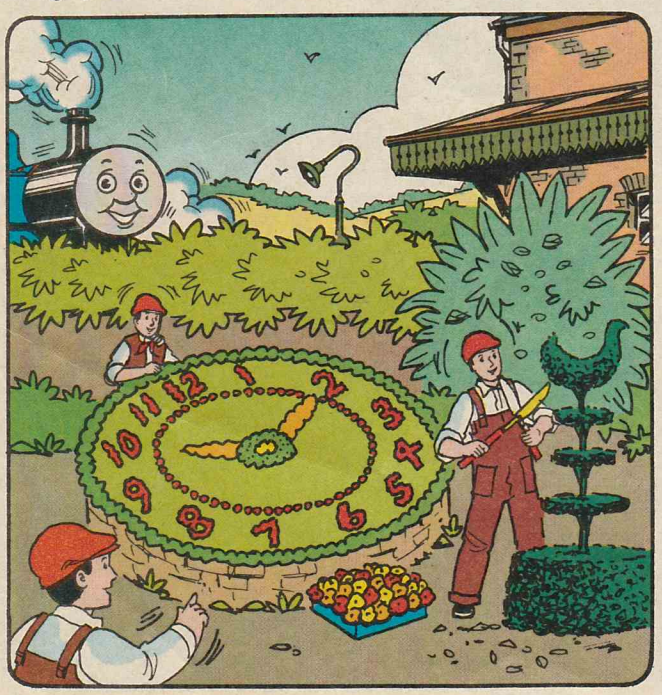

1. One bright morning, the Fat Controller came to see Thomas. "There is to be a grand flower festival at Elsbridge Park," he said. "Lots of flowers have been grown for it at the nursery."

2. Thomas was coupled to some trucks. Then he set off eagerly to collect the plants. When he arrived, nurserymen loaded them into trucks. "Gracious! So many flowers!" puffed Thomas.



3. He rolled out of the nursery siding and steamed on his way to Elsbridge Station. The park gardeners were waiting to unload all the plants and take them to the big park beside the railway.

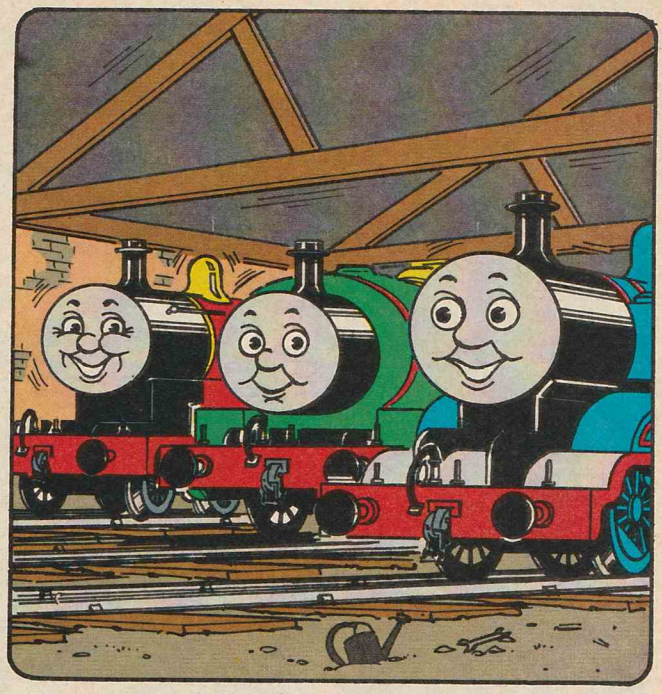
4. When his trucks were empty, Thomas returned to the nursery to fetch bushes in pots. As he pulled into Elsbridge Station again, the park gardeners were planting out the flower beds.



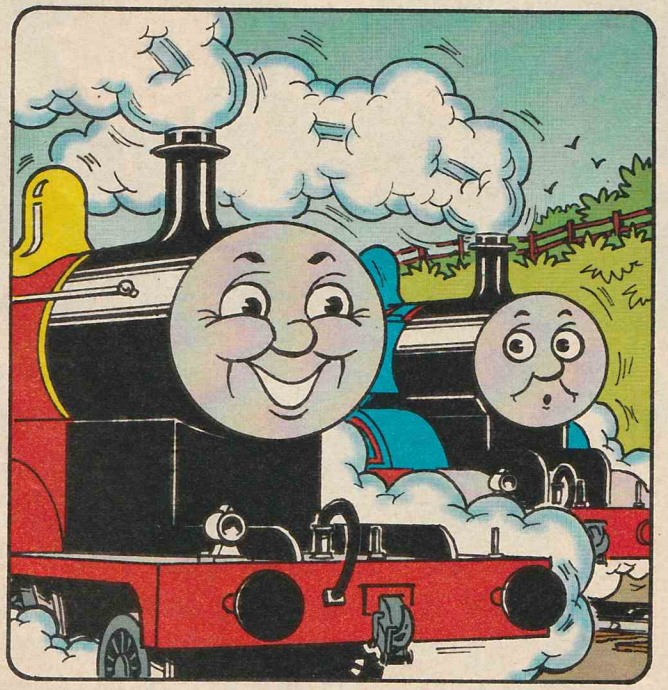
5. They used plants to look like a huge flower clock. It was very colourful indeed. One gardener trimmed a hedge in the shape of a bird. "Why are they making flower pictures?" asked Thomas.

6. "The gardeners plant unusual displays so the festival is more interesting for the visitors!" explained his driver. Thomas saw an empty flower bed. "What will they plant in there?" he said.

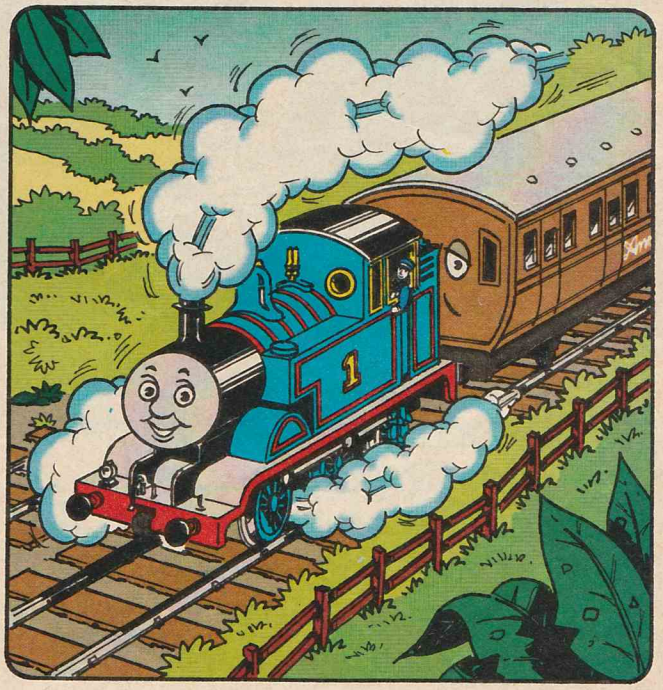
7. His driver asked the head gardener. "We have not decided yet!" he replied. He thanked Thomas's driver for delivering the plants and waved as Thomas puffed slowly out of the station.



8. That evening, in the shed, Thomas told the other engines about the gardeners planting flowers to make shapes and pictures. "Fancy!" said Percy. "Whoever heard of such a thing!"



9. Next day, the festival was to be opened by the Mayor. "I am to take him to Elsbridge with the Fat Controller!" boasted James. "I was chosen because my bright red paintwork looks so smart!"



10. Thomas was coupled to his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. Then he chuffed busily along his branch line. He called at all the stations, collecting passengers for the festival.

11. Thomas arrived at Elsbridge Station and the visitors hurried to the park. Then James pulled up importantly beside Thomas. The Mayor and the Fat Controller stepped out from one of James's carriages and the Mayor went to cut a large ribbon tied across the park gates. "I declare the Elsbridge Flower Festival is now open!" he announced. The crowd cheered excitedly.

12. The flower festival was a great success. Everyone admired a very special flower picture. The head gardener spoke to the Fat Controller. "Thomas gave me a splendid idea for the last flower bed," he said. Thomas could see it had been planted out to look just like him. "A flower engine is even brighter than your fine, red paint, James!" said Thomas proudly.

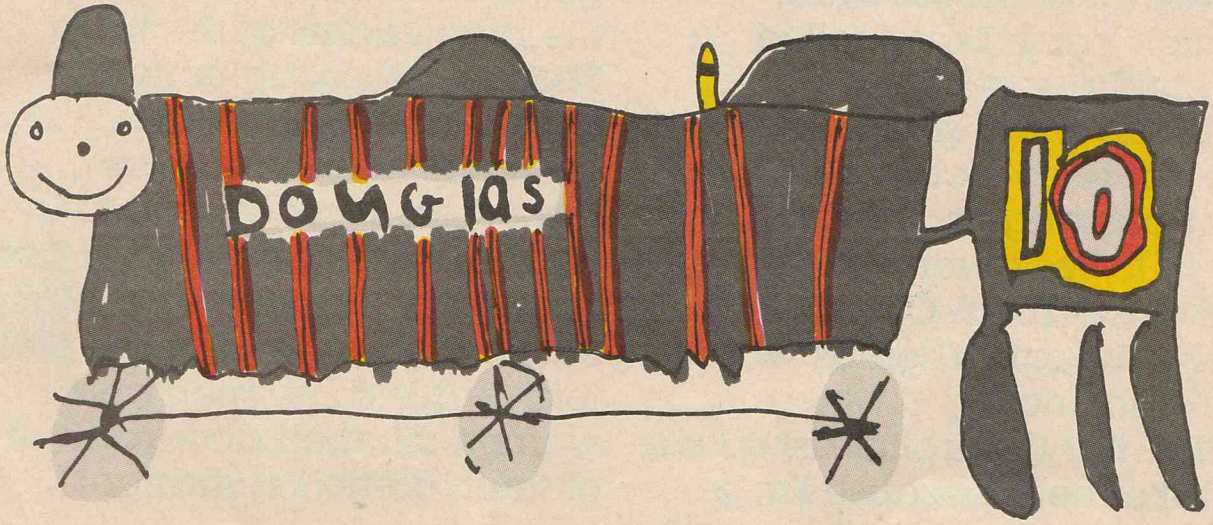
**THE END!**



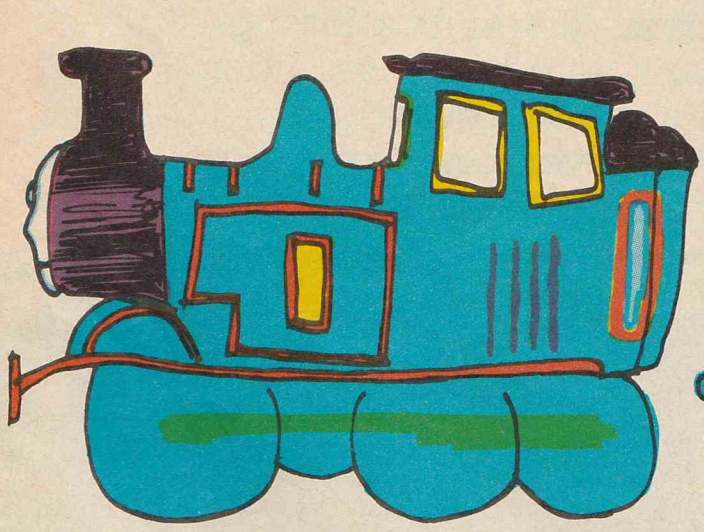
**In our next issue: The river rescue!**

# THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURES PAGE!

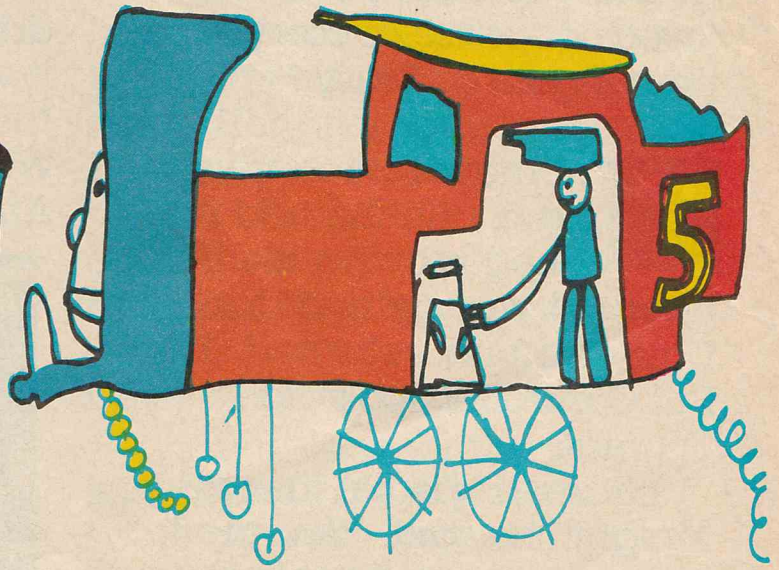
**Look at these bright colourful pictures of Thomas and two of his special friends! Has yours been printed?**




Look at this splendid drawing of **Donald** the twin Scottish Engine. This was skilfully drawn and sent to us by ***Simon Llewellyn***, aged 6!



Peep! Peep! **Thomas** is racing down his branch line. Many thanks to ***Peter Williams*** for sending us this splendid drawing!




***Richard Woodmansey*** from Yorkshire has used his brightest red colours to paint this picture of **James**.

**Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Picture Page), the Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.***

# STAR SPOTTING!

One afternoon, Thomas was busily shunting trucks in the Main Station yard. Daisy rolled smoothly past him.

"Make way!" she called fussily. "I'm to collect some important passengers and take them to Wellsworth for a meeting of the Town Council!" Daisy thought Thomas was old-fashioned.

"The Fat Controller asked me to take them because I'm a thoroughly modern Diesel railcar!" she sniffed.

"Botheration!" huffed Thomas as Daisy left the yard. "I am just as capable of carrying passengers as Daisy."

Thomas worked very hard until he had finished moving the trucks about. It was getting dark and Daisy had not returned. The Fat Controller spoke to Thomas.

"I have a special task for you tonight!" he said. "You are to take a group of people for a ride into the countryside, along your branch line!" Thomas was puzzled.

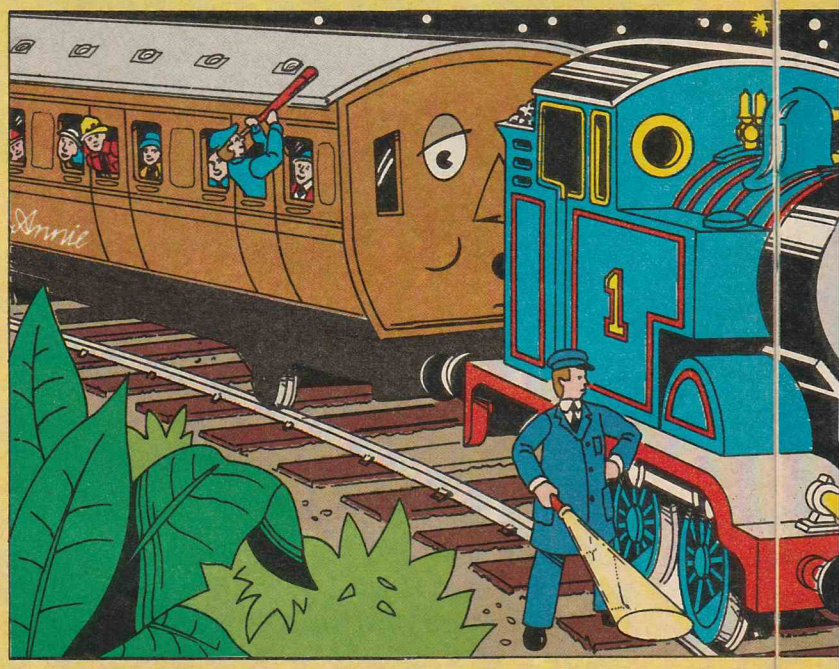
"Of course, sir," he began, "but where can they be going so late in the evening?"

"They want to study the stars in the night sky," said the Fat Controller. "They can spot them more easily away from the bright lights of the town." Thomas was coupled to his faithful carriage, Annie. Thomas's headlamp was turned on. It glowed on to the track in front of him. Then he chuffed proudly into the Main Station and waited at the platform while some men and women climbed aboard. One of them carried a strange, long tube.

"Puffing pistons!" gasped Thomas. "What's that?"

"A telescope," explained his driver. "If you look through it, it will help you to see things that are far away!"

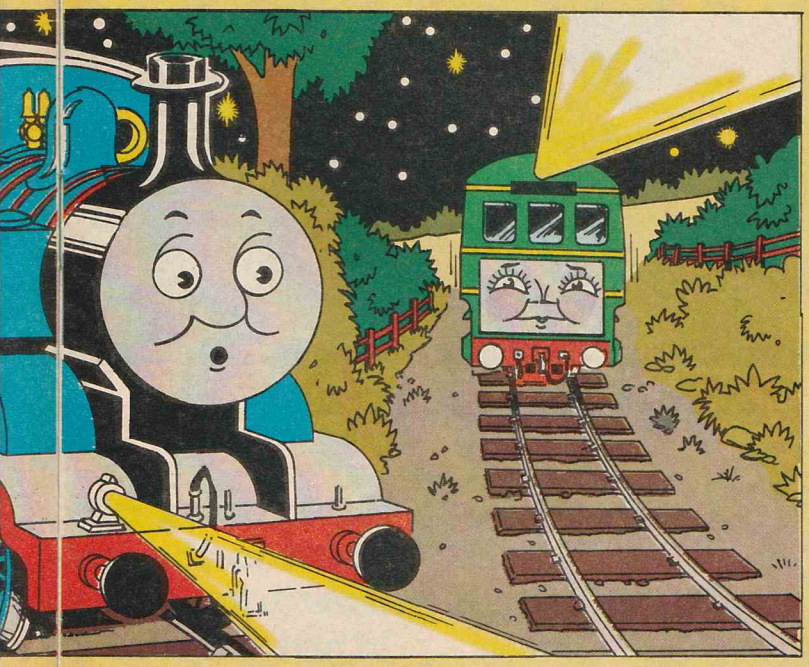
When everyone was sitting in Annie, Thomas puffed on his



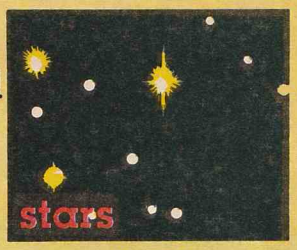
way. Although it was dark, Thomas was too excited to feel frightened. At a siding by a field, his driver shut off steam and applied the brake. When Thomas had stopped, the driver jumped down on to the track, carrying a torch. He changed the points, then went back to his cab. Thomas rolled into the siding and pulled up.

The passengers talked eagerly as they peered at all the stars from Annie's windows. One star-spotter spoke to Thomas's driver. The man pointed to the dark sky.

"Every light is a star," said the man. "Some form shapes which have special names!"
Thomas enjoyed looking at the stars too.
The passengers used the telescope to help them examine the stars. Suddenly, Thomas



and the star-spotters noticed a bright light in the distance. It was moving just above the ground. The light was getting closer in the darkness.




"I've never seen a star as bright as that!" gasped a star spotter.

The others agreed. The light was a mystery. As it neared, it glowed brighter and brighter. Then a man peered at it through the telescope.

"That light is from an engine!" he cried.
Thomas called to his driver.

"Gracious! It's Daisy, returning late from Wellsworth!" Soon Daisy appeared on the other track. Her headlamp shone brilliantly.

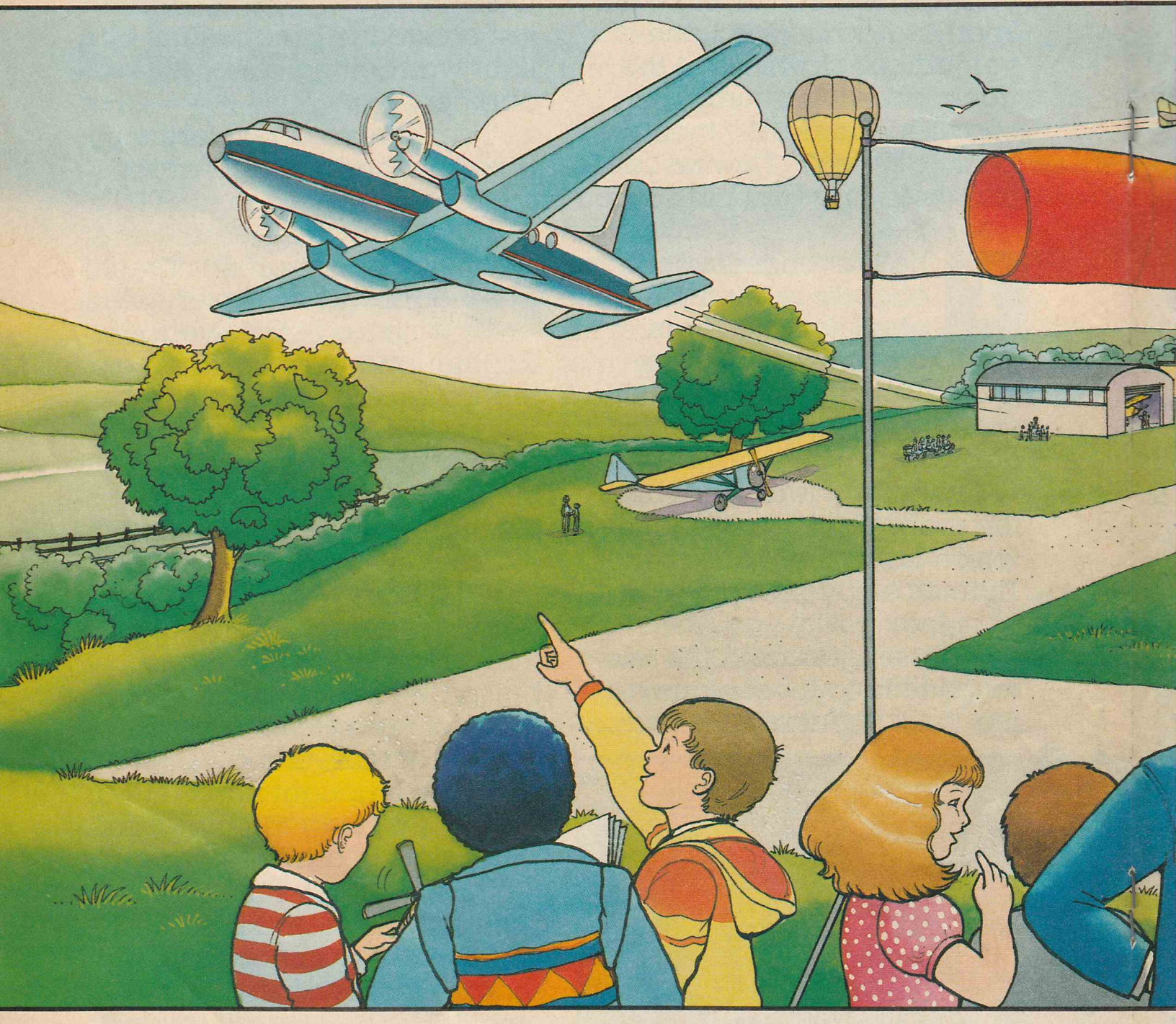
"Peep! Peep! Hello, Daisy!" called Thomas. "For a moment, I thought you were a star!"
Daisy slowed down.

"I had to wait for the Town Hall meeting to end before I could take my important passengers home," she said wearily.
Thomas told her about the star-spotters.

"With your bright headlamp, you should be called Daisy the Diesel star!" chuckled Thomas.

**THE END!**

# The air sh



Point to Harold the Helicopter!
What is he flying past?
How many people are watching the air show!
Point to the windsock!

How many aeropl
Point to the hot ai
How many aeropl
What colours are t

# how!

teroplanes can you see?
not air balloon!
teroplanes are flying near Harold?
s are they?

## Note for parents

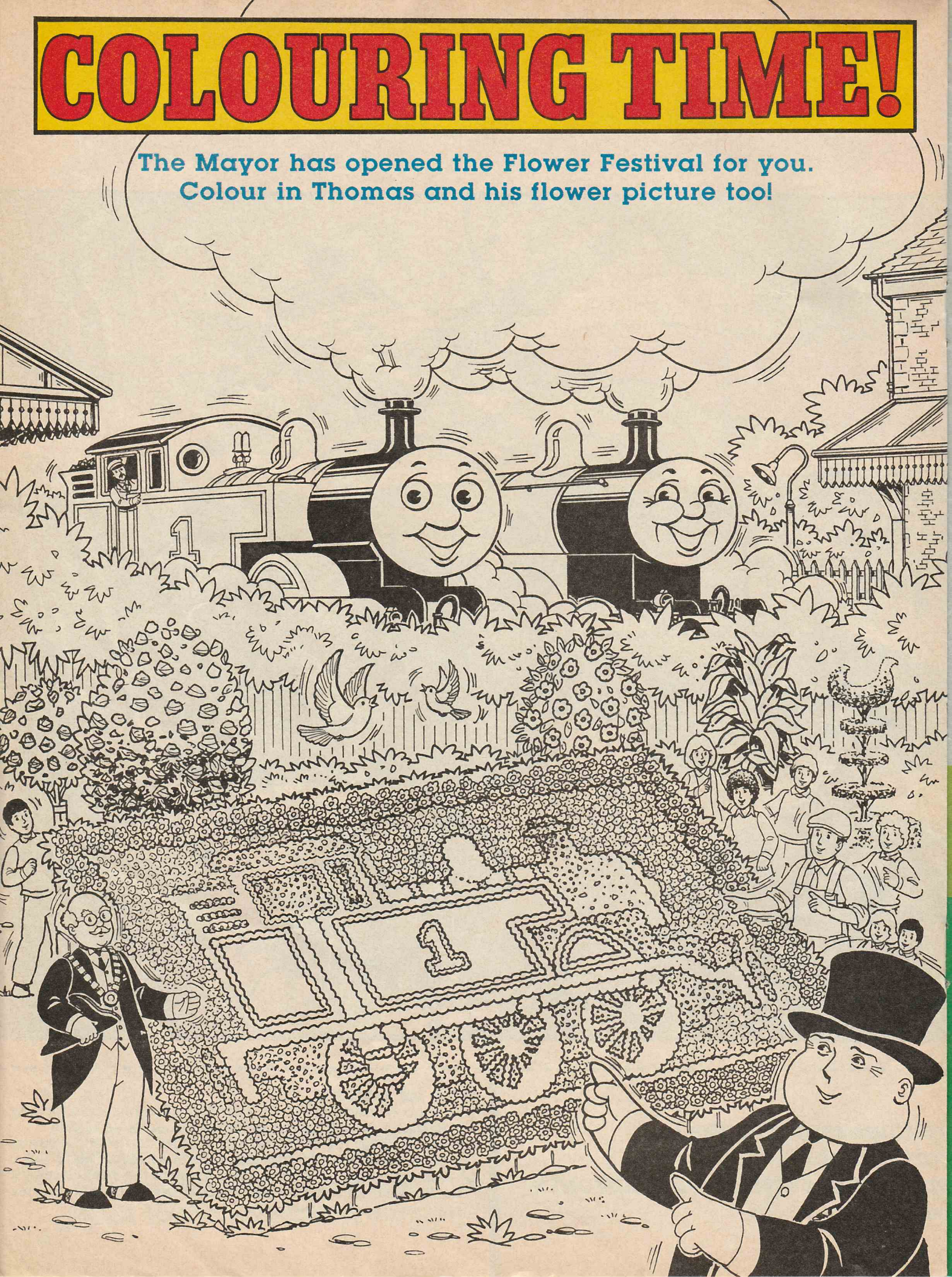
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!



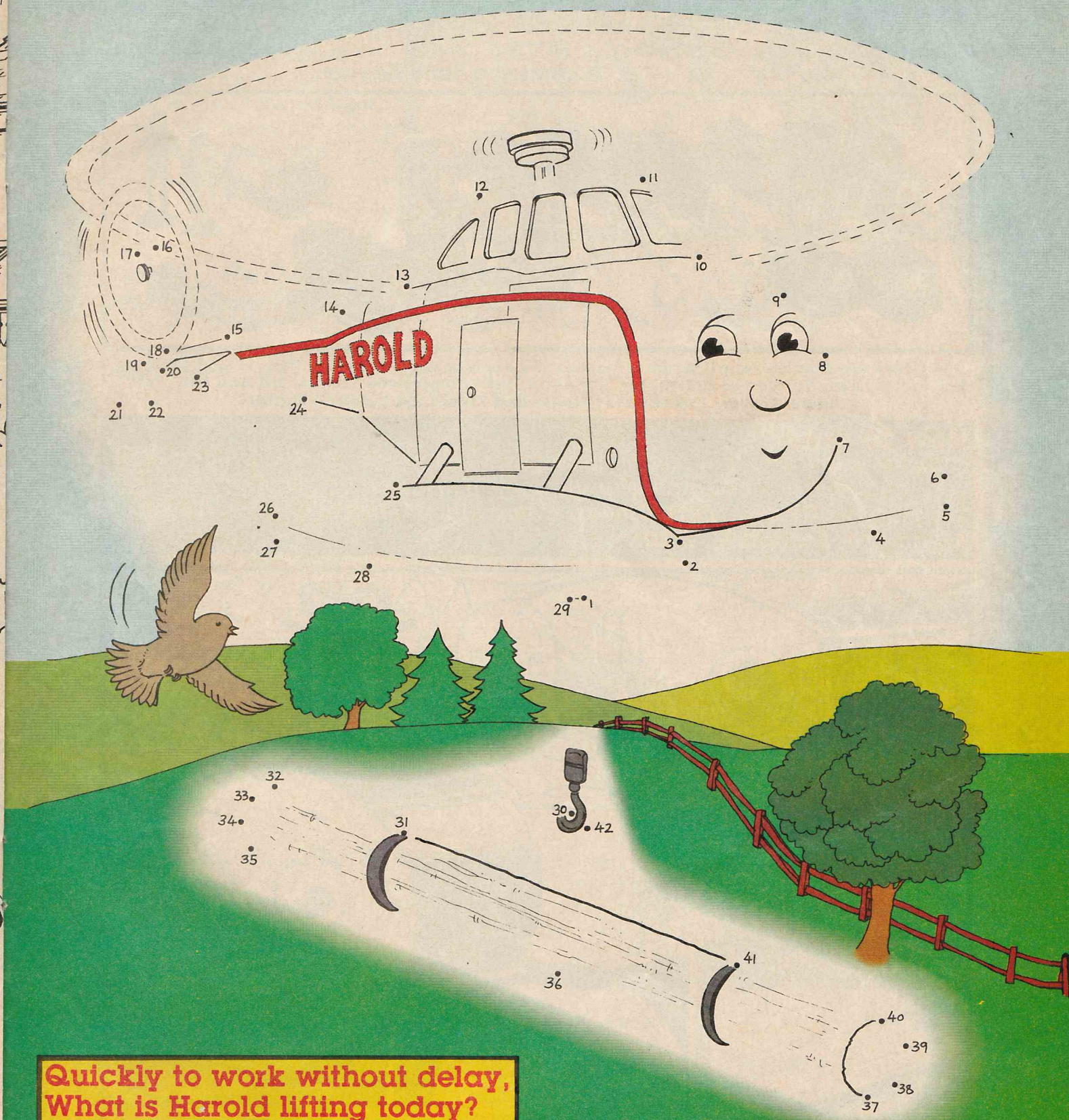
In our next issue: Past the maypole fair!

# COLOURING TIME!

**The Mayor has opened the Flower Festival for you.
Colour in Thomas and his flower picture too!**



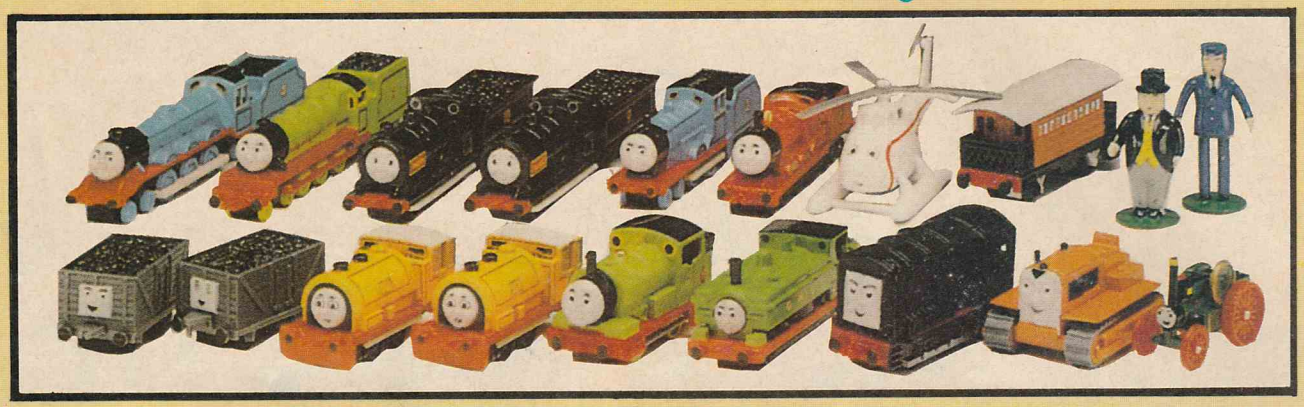
# JOIN THE DOTS!




**Quickly to work without delay,**
**What is Harold lifting today?**

# COMPETITION!

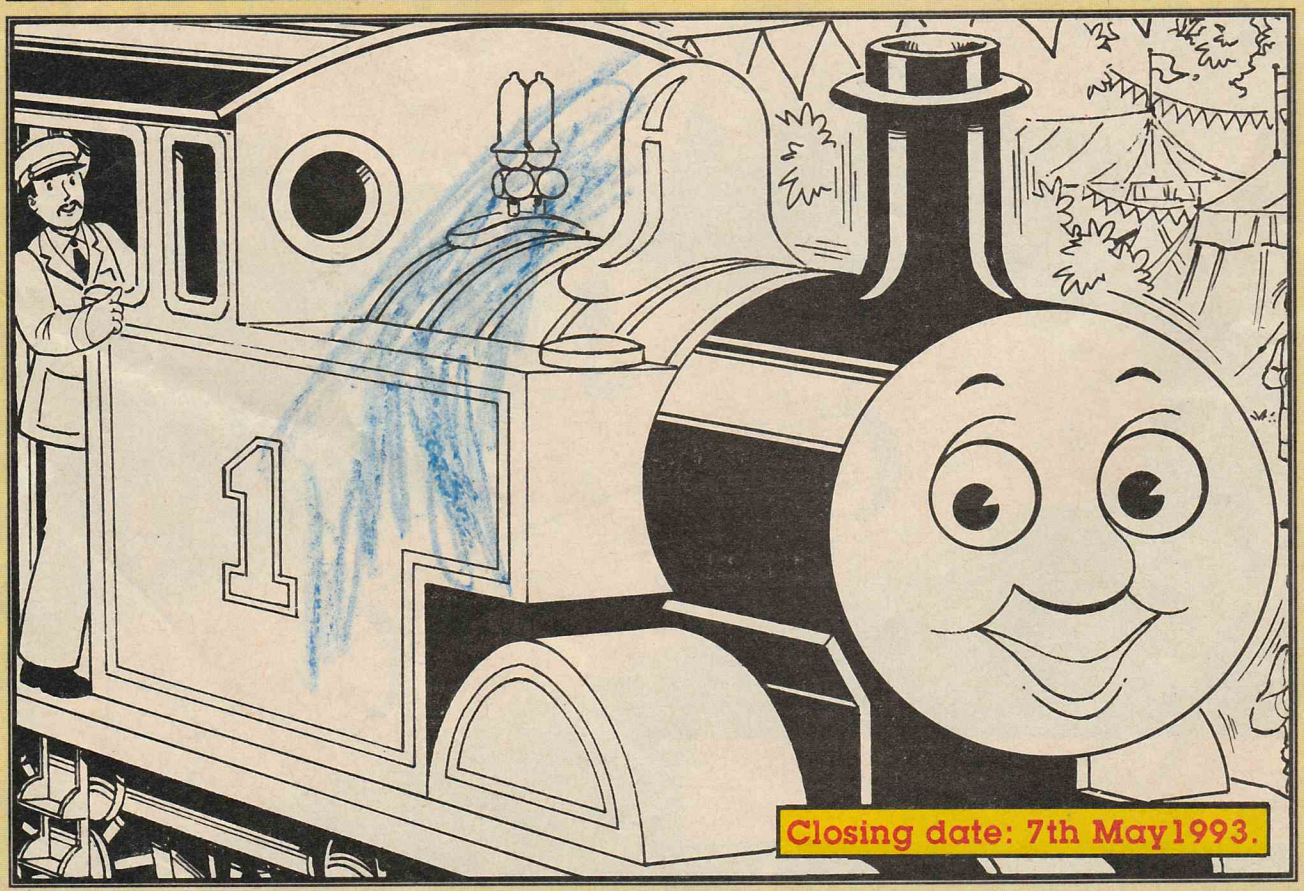
You could be the lucky winner of one of three superb prizes from ***ERTL (UK) Ltd***. Our special **1st** prize winner will receive the complete **Diecast Range** of toys *(see picture)*. **12** second prize winners receive fine models of **Thomas, Annie** and **Clarabel** and **24** third prize winners will receive a special model of **Thomas the Tank Engine**.



**The Complete Diecast range includes Gordon the Express Engine, Henry, Donald and Douglas, Edward, James, Harold the Helicopter, Henrietta, the Troublesome Trucks, Bill and Ben, Percy, Duck, Diesel, Terence the Tractor and Trevor the Traction Engine.**

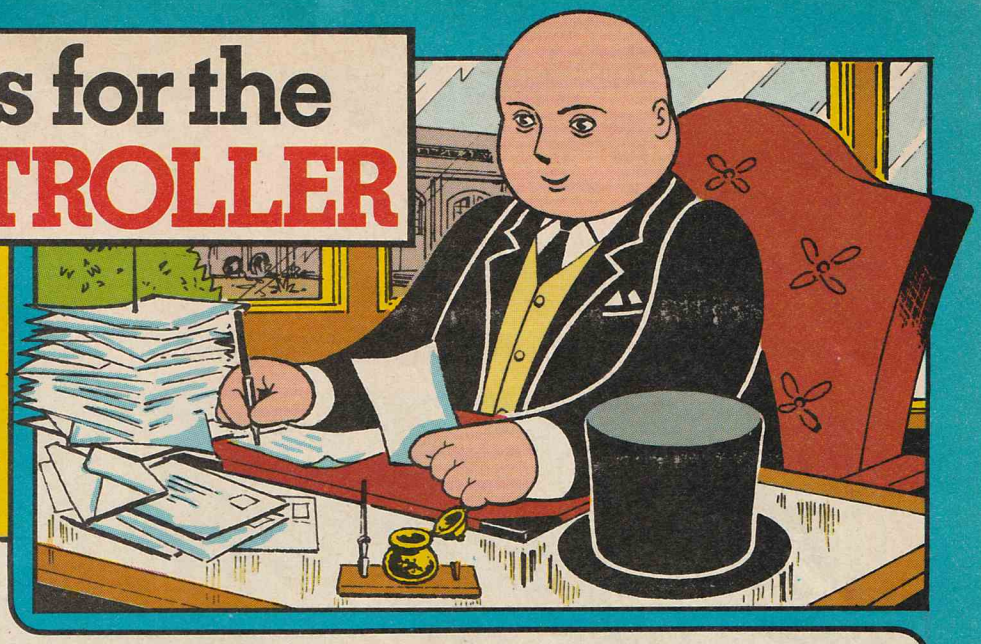
## How to enter:

For your chance to win one of these prizes, all you have to do is choose your brightest colouring pens and colour the picture below. Then send this page to ***Thomas/ERTL Diecast Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.***




**Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.**

# Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



**Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!**

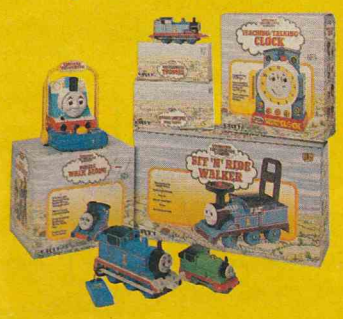
## STAR LETTER!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
I like the story called **"Thomas and the Boat Ride"** when Thomas was lifted up by the crane and swung in the air. I think he was dizzy!

Love from **Jack James**, aged 2.

*I do believe that Thomas did feel very dizzy when the crane lifted him off the ship. However, he did assure me that he thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the different kinds of sailing vessels.*

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*




## FAMOUS RACE!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
My favourite story is called **"Thomas and Bertie"** when Bertie almost arrived into the last station before Thomas!

Love from **Nick**, aged 6.

*We all remember that story very well. On that occasion, it was really the traffic lights that prevented Bertie from winning the race. I would never allow another race like that though, as it proved to be very uncomfortable for Thomas's and Bertie's passengers!*

## THE FASTEST ENGINE!

**Dear Fat Controller,**
I would like to ask you how fast Thomas goes? Is he really the fastest engine on the Island of Sodor?

Love from **Thomas Underwood**, aged 5.

*Thomas can race along very fast but he doesn't like to go too fast in case his passengers feel uncomfortable. Gordon is much bigger than Thomas, and therefore he is the fastest engine on my railway.*

## BIRTHDAY'S!

**Special greetings go out to...**

**Samantha Gobey (18686), Ian McCall, Luke Tate, Jamie Lee Merilion, Richard Mark Henderson (35420), Daniel Griffiths, Samantha Wilson and Francis Longhurst.**

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

**Yours**
Sir Topham Hatt
**The Fat Controller!**

**Send your letters to:**

**The Fat Controller**
**The Island of Sodor**
**c/o Marvel Comics Ltd**
**13/15 Arundel Street**
**London WC2.**

# Subscribe!

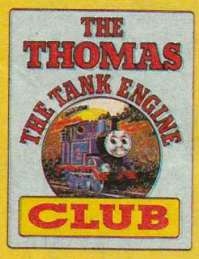
## Subscribe to Thomas's very own magazine and receive a splendid diecast model of Percy from ERTL®

For just £18.00 (35.00 overseas), your child will be sent Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends every fortnight for a whole year - or for £10.00 (£18.00 overseas) you can subscribe for 6 months. Additionally, if you subscribe for a whole year (UK subscribers only ) you will receive a FREE Percy diecast model plus a charming notebook and pencil (see opposite pictures) and personalised Fat Controller's Card enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to Fat Controller's Card holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!

**PLUS JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB... DETAILS BELOW!**

### A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!

## THOMAS CLUB FORM ▼




### THE THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE CLUB

**JOIN THE MANY 1,000s ALREADY ABOARD!**

**ONLY £5·95**

★ Bumper Membership Pack
★ A birthday card from Thomas
★ Further mailings during the year
★ Exclusive Club Offers
★ Preserved Railway Discounts
★ News on new Thomas products
★ Competitions to enter - Great prizes to be won!

Send your name, address and date of birth together with your cheque for £5.95 made payable to the 'Thomas Club' or credit card details to:- Thomas The Tank Engine Club, Dept Marvel, PO Box 96, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2PQ or alternatively call 0491 411500 with credit card details.

NB. For applications from outside the UK, Eire and the Channel Islands, please add £5 to the above price. Only sterling accepted.

© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd 1992

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM ▼

### ORDER FORM.

6 MONTHS (13 ISSUES) ☐ 20F
12MONTHS (26 ISSUES) ☐ 19R

Please send ..... issues of THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS fortnightly magazine starting with the next available issue.

Child's Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Donor's name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Date of birth.....Boy/Girl.

PAYMENT (*delete as necessary)

*1. Cheque: I enclose my cheque/postal order for £..... (payable to MARVEL COMICS LTD)

*2. Credit Card: Please charge £..... to my Access/Visa account.

My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

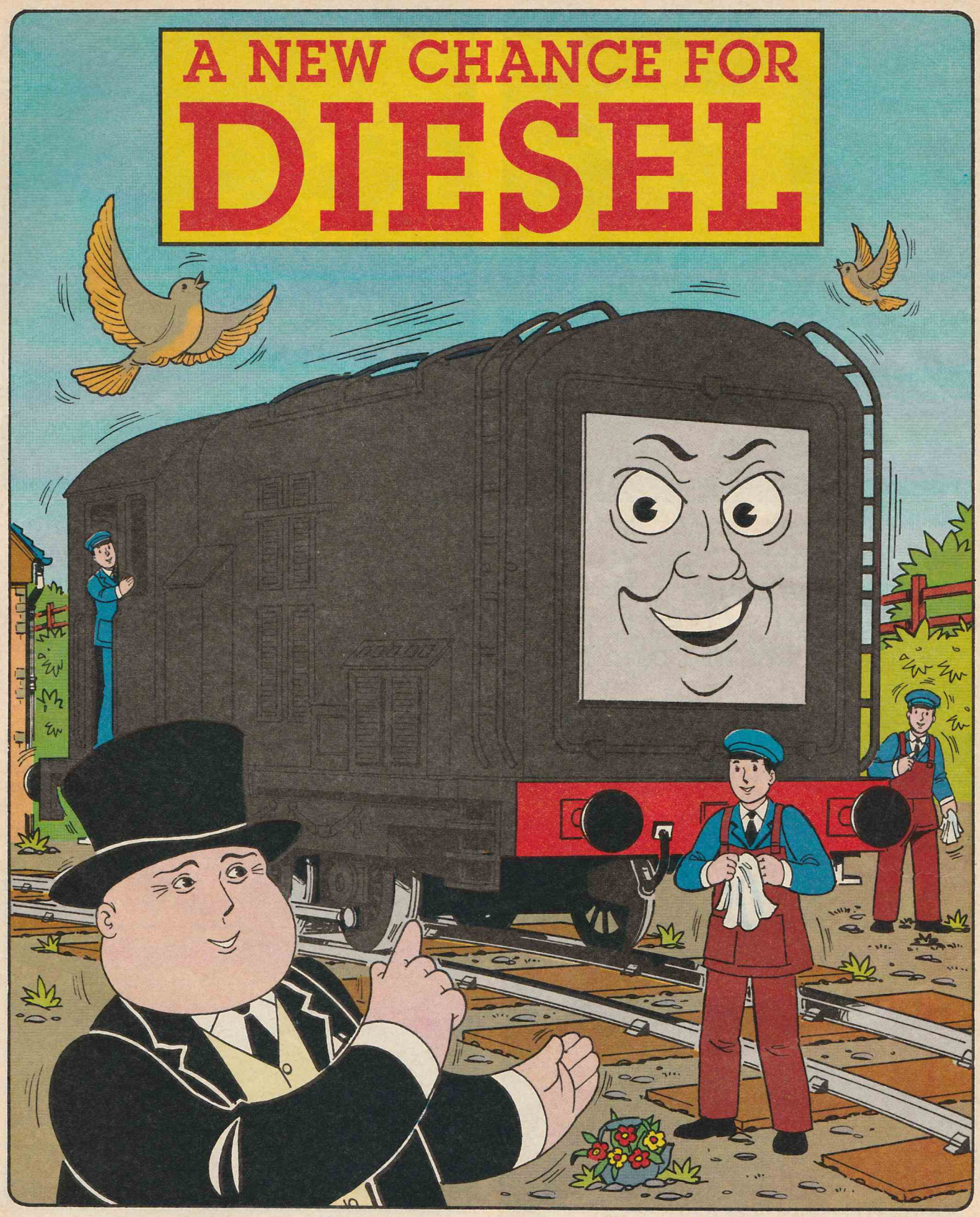
Expiry date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Please note that Marvel Comics occasionally makes its mailing list available to a carefully screened list of companies whose products we feel would be of interest. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive these mailings. ☐

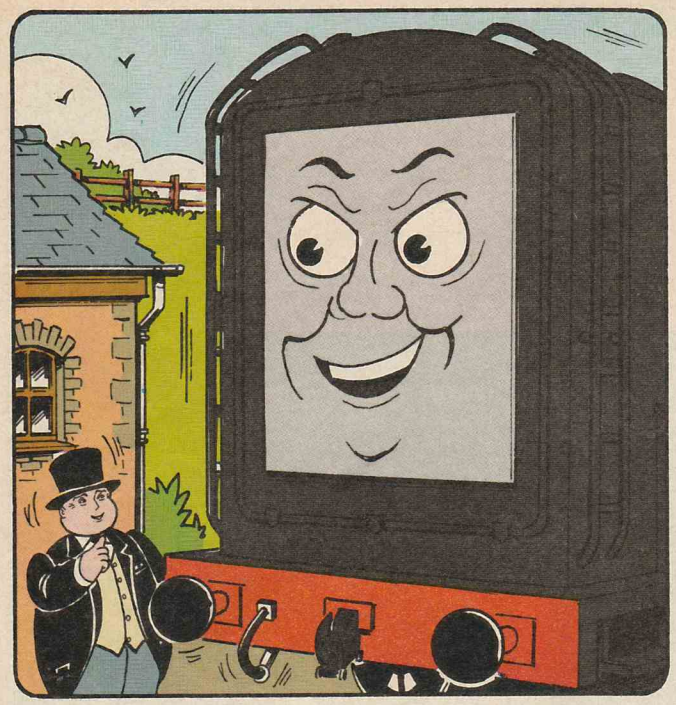
To apply for either subscription please fill out the appropriate section above and send this form, together with a cheque/postal order or credit card details to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.**

# A NEW CHANCE FOR DIESEL

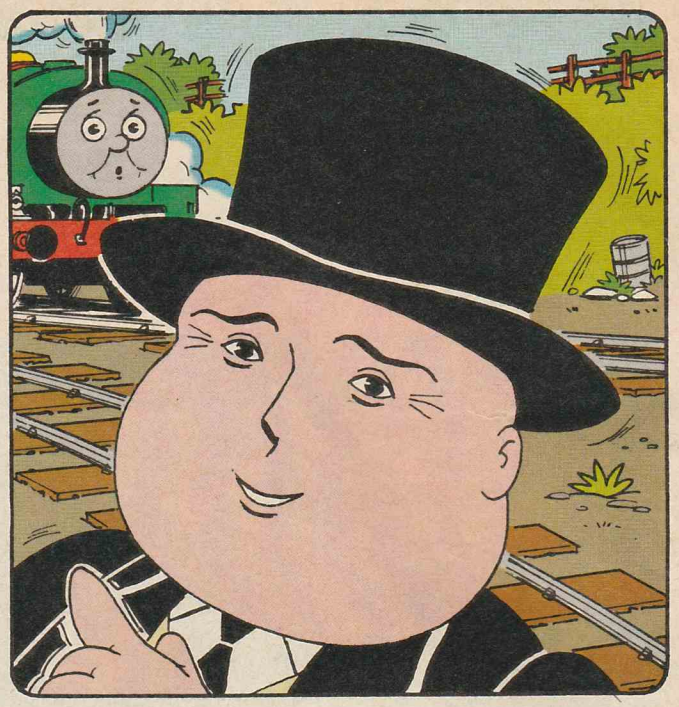


1. Diesel had been in the engine shed for several days, but not for being naughty. The Fat Controller had asked the Yard Engineer to give Diesel's motors a thorough overhaul.

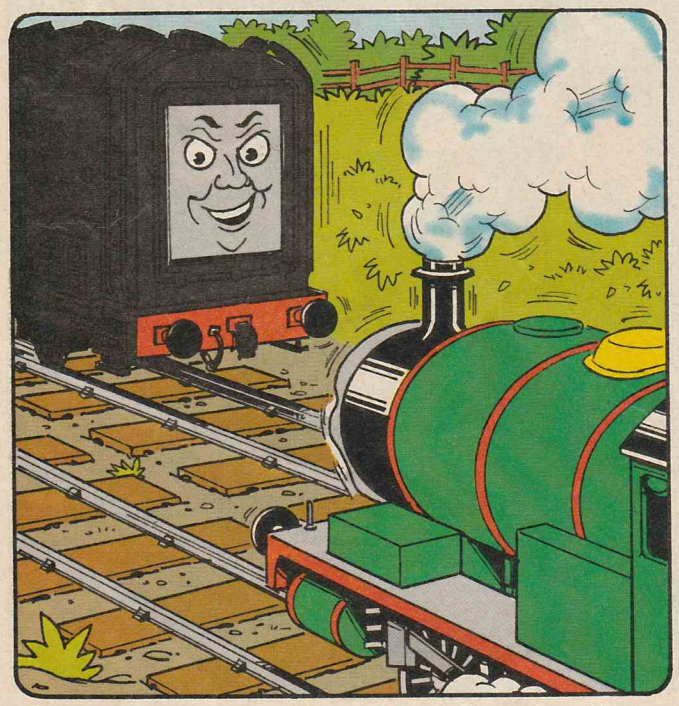
2. "You don't deserve it, but I've decided to give you another chance," said the Fat Controller. "A lot of hard work has been done to make you a better locomotive. The rest is up to you."



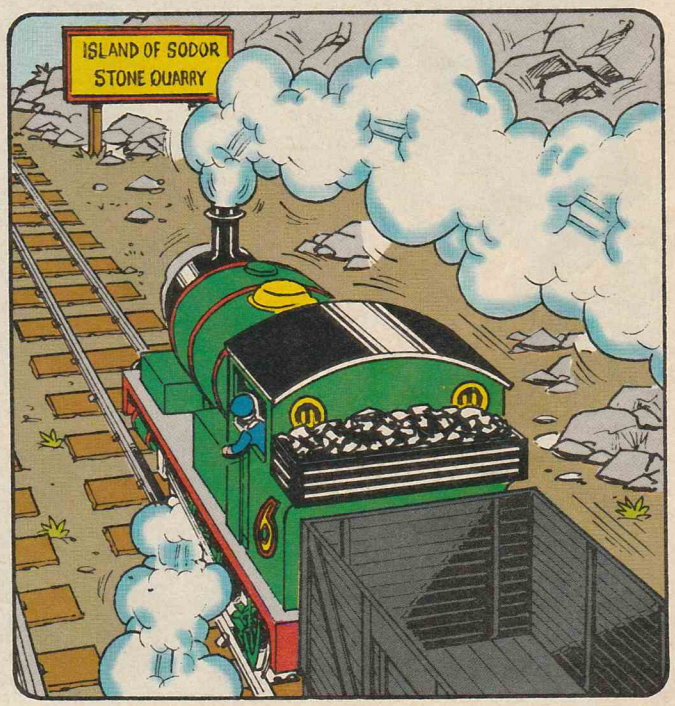
3. All this fuss made Diesel feel very important. "Thank you very much, sir," he purred in his oiliest voice. Diesel wanted to know why all this fuss had been made of him?



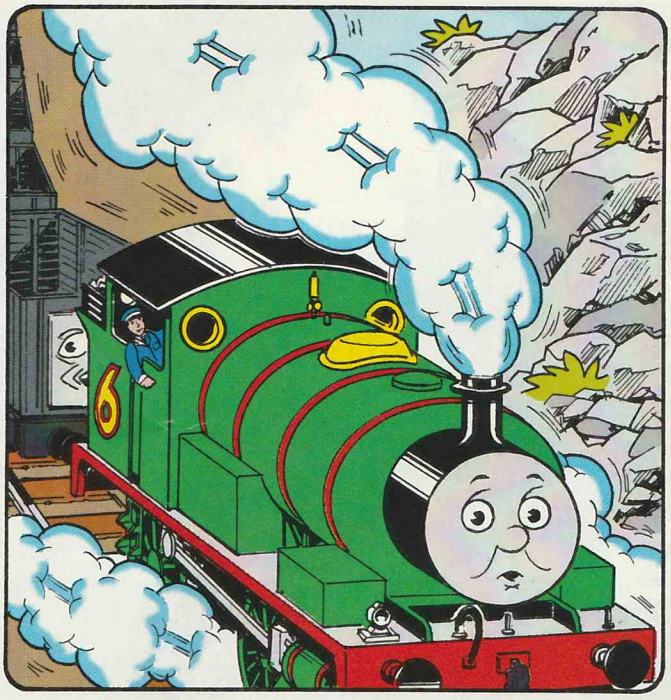
4. "To make sure his motors are working properly, Diesel can take over from Percy in the Yard," announced the Fat Controller. Diesel was delighted but Percy was not pleased at all.



5. "Why has the Fat Controller given you my job?" puffed Percy, when Diesel drew alongside. "Because he wants a more modern engine in the Yard," replied Diesel, telling a lie.

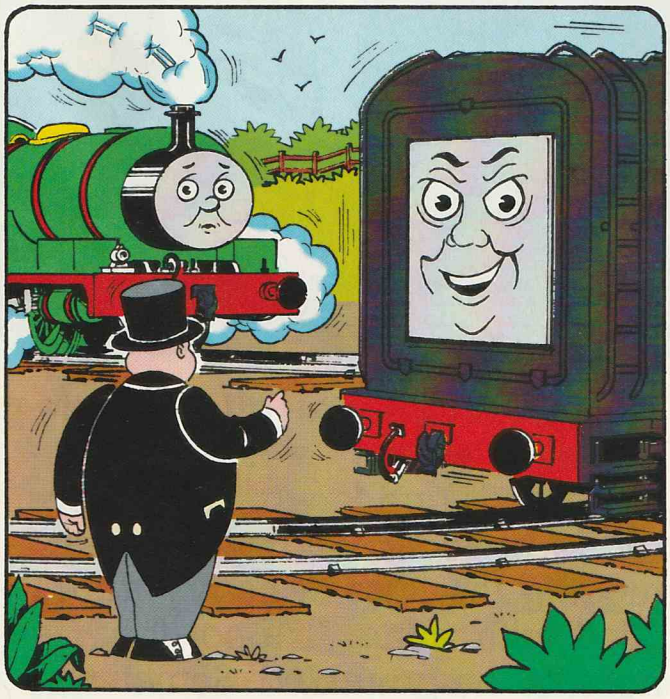



6. When Percy was sent to the stone quarry with some empty trucks, he began to believe Diesel was telling the truth. After all, the Fat Controller had given Diesel a thorough overhaul.

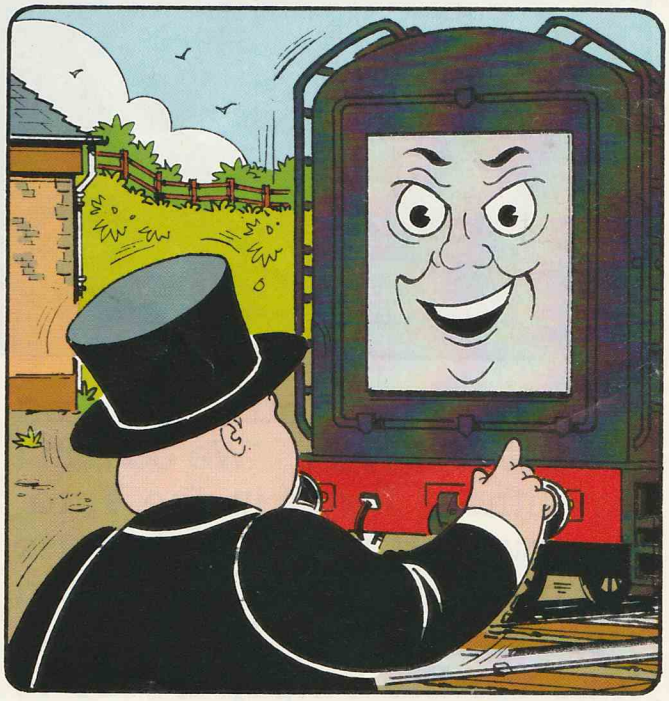


7. Once he had delivered the empty trucks to the stone quarry, he was sent back with some more. All that day, Percy took empty trucks to the Island of Sodor stone quarry.

8. Back at the Yard, Diesel was still trying to show the Fat Controller how useful he could be. So good in fact that he would not want that old-fashioned Percy back again.



9. After delivering all the empty trucks to the stone quarry, Percy was very tired. As he puffed into the Yard, the Fat Controller was there talking to Diesel again.



10. "Your motors are running well and you have behaved well, too," said the Fat Controller. "Does that mean I shall be working in the Yard with you from now on sir?" purred Diesel.

11. "Good gracious, no!" said the Fat Controller. "We couldn't do without Percy in the Yard. The builders are going to use lots of stone to build a new sea wall. That is why Percy has to take all the empty trucks to the quarry! Pulling the full trucks to the coast will keep you out of mischief for quite a while," smiled the Fat Controller.

12. The Fat Controller made Diesel work very hard. Backwards and forwards from the Island of Sodor Quarry he went, tugging the lines of heavy trucks filled with stone. "It's not fair! It's not fair!" he grumbled. Sometimes he would meet Percy bringing more empty trucks from the Yard. "At least you have shown the Fat Controller how useful you really can be," said Percy.

THE END!

**In our next issue: Who's there?**